2317

WRL News

Number 212 The War Resisters League May-June 1979

THREE MILE ISLAND FUELS ANTI-NUKE PROTESTS

Photo by Grace Hedemann

Heading toward Electric Boat on April 7 to protest the first Trident launching.

MASS DEMONSTRATION AT FIRST TRIDENT LAUNCHING

by Chris Neiman

When the Trident/Conversion Campaign (T/CC) began almost a year and a half ago it was to be a departure from, but not a rejection of, the long history of resistance in Southeastern Connecticut. For 20 years CNVA had protested and at times offered alternatives to the building of nuclear submarines at Electric Boat (EB). Joined recently by members of the Atlantic Life Community, there had been frequent small demonstrations at EB with civil disobedience often as a part. The T/CC, growing out of this resistance, was to broaden the base of opposition to military production at EB, especially the building of the

APRIL 7 SAN FRANCISCO ANTI-NUKE RALLY

by Liz Walker and Marcy Darnovsky

In the wake of Harrisburg, 25,000 people gathered in San Francisco with homemade banners and picket signs to express outraged opposition to nuclear plants in general and the Diablo Canyon nuke in particular. It was the largest anti-nuclear rally in the history of the United States. Crowds spread over the grass of the Civic Center and spilled into the nearby streets while the music reverberated over the downtown traffic on Market Street.

While the sun blazed overhead, people paid rapt attention to speakers and musicians alike, and occasionally burst into a loud chant of "No Nukes." A blue-ribbon line-up on stage included Dennis Banks, long-time Abalone activist Raye Fleming, I.L.W.U. President Dave Jenkins, Ralph Nader,

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Photo by Jon Katz

San Francisco and April 7.

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Trident, the Navy's newest submarine. The Trident is 560 feet long, with 408 individually targetable warheads with pinpoint accuracy for possible first strike use. In an area so heavily dependent on the military, the issue of jobs has always been a barrier on the road to disarmament. We began slowly to build a grass roots campaign to convert southeastern Connecticut's economy to peaceful production, tying the issues of disarmament and conversion. No large demonstrations, but outreach to religious groups, to workers, to the community at large, and education on "the Russian threat," our present military policy and the feasibility of economic conversion.

Then in February 1979 we found out (through EB sources) that the first Trident was to be launched this spring. We felt that this event demanded direct action and a strong national response. The question was how to respond without damaging our newly formed ties to the community. We wanted to have a demonstration that people in the community could feel comfortable about attending. It was in this context that the T/CC organized a silent vigil to mourn the launch of a death ship, and a lockout to say this celebration should not take place. We attempted to keep our actions as simple and to the point as possible, unable to be misconstrued; thus, the five slogans of the day—Trident is nothing to celebrate; build for peace, not for war; feed the people, not the Pentagon; more weapons = less security; God help us when it's used.

PROTESTERS BLOCK GATES

With the help of many movement groups, in the context of a growing national awareness of the necessity of disarmament, we began to get the word out. The result surpassed our expectations—4000 people came to vigil and 250 to participate in the lockout. They came from all over the East Coast, as well as the local communities of southeastern Connecticut. It was the largest anti-nuclear weapons demonstration in New England's history. It was the first demonstration in Groton in which EB workers took part. The pervasive attitude was one of a serious commitment to nonviolence and disarmament, and such an attitude was communicated to both the would-be celebrants and the media.

The demonstration began with a brief gathering at a local park, at which 3 area residents, a health care worker, an ex-EB worker and a current EB worker spoke. Then, 4000 people walked in silence over the hill down to EB. The vigilers lined the sidewalks and overflowed into the streets. At the three main gates the civil disobedients quietly walked to the entrances and sat down. For awhile access to the launch was mostly blocked. Some of those going to the launch squeezed through the protesters or were dragged over them by security guards, until enough demonstrators had been arrested to clear a path and other gates were opened. There were frequent interchanges between those blocking and those who would go in. If there was not always understanding, there was seldom hostility.

In the eyes of those of us in the T/CC the demonstration was a success. It once again pushed to the forefront of national consciousness the issue of disarmament. It has given the T/CC a new momentum in its work for conversion and disarmament. we have all begun to stop Trident.

Chris Neiman works with Trident/ Conversion Campaign and CNVA.

WRL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The War Resisters League affirms that war is a crime against humanity. We therefore are determined not to support any kind of war, international or civil, and to strive nonviolently for the removal of all the causes of war.

☐ I support this statement and wish to enroll as a member of the War Resisters League.

Name_____

Address_____

City _____

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Send to War Resisters League
339 Lafayette Street
New York, N.Y. 10012

ERRATA

The last issue of *WRL News* should have been numbered 211 (instead of 210) and dated March-April 1979 (instead of Nov.-Dec. 1978).

Honolulu WRL Protests Plan to Store Nukes near Airport

"Two miles west of Honoulu International Airport and one mile north of the final approach course to Runway 8-Left, construction of 48 'igloos' is nearing completion," writes Howard Morland in the New York *Times* March 26. (Morland is the reporter whose recent article on the H-bomb for *The Progressive* was temporarily banned from publication by a federal judge.) "Antiwar and environmental groups have been presented overwhelming evidence that the Navy, which ordered construction of the igloos, plans to store nuclear weapons in them.

"James Albertini of catholic Action/WRL of Hawaii estimates that up to 25 hydrogen bombs may eventually be stored in each igloo, placing 1200 nuclear thermonuclear weapons within one mile of the flight path of every Boeing 747 that lands on Honolulu's principal runway for instrument landings.

"Several months ago, Mr. Albertini joined forces with environmentalists and other pacifists in a suit to block the Navy's plans. At the very least, he reasoned, the government should prepare an environmental-impact statement on the hazardous proximity of the nuclear-bomb storage site to the airport.

"Early this month, the case was argued before Federal Judge Howard Turrentine in Honolulu. Murray Nash (a Department of Energy specialist) said in conclusion: 'In my opinion an environmental assessment or environmental-impact statement could not be prepared for the storage and handling of nuclear weapons consistent with the security data restrictions of the Atomic Energy of 1964.'"

For several years Hawaii catholic Action/WRL has been conducting a vigorous campaign against storage and transportation of nuclear weapons on the island.

(Continued from page 1)

a trio of supervisors from SF and San Luis Obispo, and numerous others. Musicians Joan Baez, Jackson Browne, Bonnie Raitt, and Mimi Farina kept the energy going.

But the stage was by no means the only focus of attention. An alternative energy fair with solar panels, a windmill and a solar cooker drew many to sign up for classes. Abalone Alliance booths were inundated. Bumper stickers and buttons disappeared early in the afternoon. People signed up in droves for non-violence training, filled collection buckets to overflowing and promised to come to the May 5 demonstration at Livermore Labs.

Ranged around the square, other groups spread their wares: one could read about the latest UFW pickets, buy a soy-milk ice cream cone, or sign a petition to stop further high rise development.

Creativity blossomed in the crowd. There were Gays Against Nukes and Nurses Against Nukes, housewives from Menlo Park at their first demonstration, and a couple dressed in mutant masks burying their mutant baby (a dead and bloody rabbit) in a drama of anguish at human self-destruction.

Someone passed out a certificate from the "Price-Anderson Nuclear Insurance Company" (in case of disaster, place premium on top of your head so as to avoid fallout contamination.) The silkscreen table was mobbed by people wanting their T-shirts emblazoned with "Smash Capitalism, Not Atoms" and "PG&E, NRC, Get Your Hands Out of My Genes." The crowd was full of spirit.

But will numbers at a rally stop nuclear power? And will the movement grow beyond a single-issue affair?

Anti-nuclear activists share with many other ecology types a still incoherent but pervasive politics of radical social transformation. They are in fact mounting a challenge to the direction of capitalist development and daring to assert their own ideas about alternative, less socially rigid technologies. A vision of non-exploitative and genuinely satisfying relationships among people and between society and nature is very much part of the milieu. And anti-nuclear alliances around the country are formally committed to a participatory ethic and to non-hierarchical forms of organization.

Pressures on the anti-nuclear movement are mounting from many sides. There will be those who want to focus anti-nuclear energies on Dump Jerry or Dump Jimmy campaigns. The sheer numbers of new people will challenge the delicate processes of direct democracy and consensus decision-making.

The nuclear industry and its cohorts in government are continuing to cover up the facts, and doubtless they will soon mount a counter-attack. But with propaganda like that provided by the "accident" at Three-Mile Island, the possibilities for growth and development of the anti-nuke movement have never been better.

Now that we can mobilize so many people, the challenge to the Abalone remains in ensuring that we successfully put the post-Harrisburg burst of energy to work. Otherwise the crowds may fade as the news coverage cools. Right now though, we're running to keep up with what we started.

Liz Walker and Marcy Darnovsky are activists in the Abalone Alliance.

DID CIVIL DEFENSE DIE IN HARRISBURG FALL OUT?

Several months ago President Carter tried to revive the 1960's "Civil Defense" program—this time with special emphasis on evacuating the large cities in case of nuclear attack. (If the Soviets hit us first, we would have less than 30 minutes warning to evacuate—if we decided to destroy them we might take a full day "evacuating" before sending off the missiles.) Carter's "evacuation" program would involve tens of millions of people hundreds of miles in a few hours. But at Harrisburg the real reason the government never took the urgent advice of the experts monitoring the crisis ("Evacuate them, for God sake, get those people out of that area!") was that even with years to plan for a crisis, and only a relative handful of people to move, and with more than a full day to do it, no one knew what to do. That was civil defense in action!

WRL LOCALS

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REGIONAL OFFICES

WRL SOUTHEAST, 108 Purefoy Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27514 (919)967-7244

WRL WEST, 1360 Howard St., San Francisco, CA 94103 (415)626-6976

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ATLANTA WRL, c/o Brian Sherman, 4120 Peachtree Rd., #2F, Atlanta, GA 30319 (404)237-4093

CHAPEL HILL WRL, 108-B Purefoy Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27514 (919)967-7244

DETROIT WRL, 1542 W. Alexandrine, Detroit, MI 48208 (313)833-3197

DIRECT ACTION COMMITTEE/WRL, 2042 E. Virginia, Evansville, IN 47711 (no phone)

HAWAII WRL/cATHOLIC ACTION, 1918 University Ave., Honolulu, HI 96822 (808)949-1210

NEW YORK CITY WRL, 339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012 (212)228-0450

OAK PARK WRL, 645 N. Taylor, Oak Park, IL 60302 (312)386-0192

PHILADELPHIA WRL/WTR, 2016 Walnut St., Philadelphia PA 19103 (215)568-7971

ST. LOUIS WRL, 4556A Oakland St., St. Louis, MO 63110 (314)533-2234

TWIN CITIES WRL, c/o Northwest Pacifist, 1523 Portland Ave., South, Minneapolis, MN 55404 (612)339-6499

Nuclear Power and Nuclear Weapons: Two Sides of the Same Coin

by Michio Kaku

At Three Mile Island, the worst nuclear power accident in American history endangered the lives of tens of thousands of people living in the area. It will continue to do so for years to come because of the leaked radiation.

Thirty-four years ago, a single nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima caused 100,000 people to die from excruciatingly painful radiation burns and sickness—and that was only a "small" bomb. The U.S. military now refers to Hiroshima-type bombs as "firecrackers" because of the "progress" made in nuclear weapons development.

Nuclear power is a direct outgrowth of the nuclear weapons program. It began as a spinoff from the weapons program and remains the smaller kid brother of the nuclear weapons industry. Nuclear power and nuclear weapons are two sides of the same coin. They are controlled by the same people, produced by the same corporations, and serve the same political and financial interests. They give off the same radioactive poisons, generate the same deadly wastes that nobody yet knows what to do with . . . and both threaten catastrophic destruction. The people who brought us Hiroshima now bring us Harrisburg.

The basic raw material for both nuclear power plants and nuclear bombs is concentrated uranium ore, "yellowcake". The biggest suppliers of yellowcake in this country include Gulf Atomic (controlled by Gulf Oil, owned by the Mellons) and Exxon (controlled by the Rockefellers). In just two years, these and other corporations have jacked up the price of yellowcake from $8 to $40 a pound. The profits yielded by these monopoly prices—paid for through our utility bills and our taxes—are a major reason behind the push for more nuclear power and more nuclear weapons. In fact, the whole nuclear industry is subsidized by our taxes which pay for both research and "waste disposal" (actually the industry has found no safe way for disposing of nuclear wastes).

Nuclear power plants give off radioactive pollution. Nuclear weapons plants give off much greater radioactivity. The Rocky Flats installation in Colorado (operated until recently by Dow Chemical) makes most of the plutonium "triggers" for U.S. bombs. It has had at least eight major fires, one of which caused $20 million worth of damage to the plutonium stored there. Some of this plutonium got into the air around Denver where it has already damaged the health of some Colorado residents. One farmer had to have several tumors cut off his chest, many of which had small, radioactive particles inside them. Cancer rates, birth defects, spontaneous abortions and congenital diseases have all risen dramatically around Rocky Flats as they have in St. George, Nevada, near a major bomb-testing site, and around naval shipyards that handle nuclear submarines. Yet despite these health hazards, the government is doing almost no research on the effects of low-level radiation; in some cases it has tried to cover up what is already known.

DEATH TWINS

Nuclear power plants and weapons plants produce the same toxic wastes and often use the same waste-disposal sites, where there have been substantial leaks and spills of radioactive materials. At the Hanford, Washington, waste plant (run by Atlantic Richfield), cost-cutting and incredibly sloppy management led to the release of over half a million gallons of radioactive wastes into the water table and the Columbia River. Even the Atomic Energy Commission conceded that the Columbia, one of the world's most beautiful rivers, is now the world's most radioactive river.

Both nuclear power and nuclear weapons plants produce "low level" damage, "low", that is, except to the people who are damaged. A power reactor accident can kill tens of thousands; a nuclear war would kill *hundreds of millions*. A meltdown at Three Mile Island would have contaminated an area the size of Pennsylvania. A nuclear war could contaminate an area the size of the Northern Hemisphere.

The shutting down of nuclear power plants—one of our goals—would be a great victory (for the human species over a deadly technology) but the dangers of radioactive pollution and nuclear disaster would not be abolished. The only safety for life on earth is to ban the production and development of *both* nuclear power *and* nuclear weapons.

It is well known in the scientific community that a whole new generation of weaponry is being developed at Livermore Weapons Laboratory, Los Alamos, etc. New weapons like satellite killers, laser and particle cannons, neutron bombs, and cruise missiles will make much of our current weaponry obsolete. We are witnessing a new escalation in the weapons of megadeaths.

The new weapons that are being developed have unbelievable destructive power; they dwarf what would have happened in the Maximum Credible Accident at Harrisburg—evacuation of all of Pennsylvania, property damage of $14 to $17 billion, and casualties of approximately 90,000 people, according to *government figures.*

So what is the way out? By mobilizing millions of people to demand ZERO NUCLEAR WEAPONS (not 2000, not 1000, but *zero* nuclear weapons) and BAN NUCLEAR POWER.

Michio Kaku is Professor of Theoretical Physics at City University of New York.

WRL NEWS

Published by the War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012, 212-228-0450.
WRL is the U.S. branch of the War Resisters' International, a pacifist organization with affiliates in 20 countries and individuals in more than 80 countries.
Editor: Jim Peck. Staff: Karl Bissinger, Ralph DiGia, Ed Hedemann, Grace Hedemann, David McReynolds. Typeset by Guardian, 33 W. 17 Street, New York, NY 10011. Printed by the Print Shop, 333 Terry Road, Smithtown, NY 11787. WRL News (from 1967 on) is available on microfilm from University Microfilms International, 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

The Madness of Harrisburg

by Jim Peck

"What's all the fuss about?" asked the *Daily News* editorially after the March 28 accident at the Three Mile Island plant, which the New York Times characterized as "the worst ever at an American nuclear generating plant." The editorial went on to argue that 3 persons had been killed the previous day in an explosion in New Jersey, whereas nobody had died in Harrisburg. Incredible stupidity or incredible cover-up? Didn't anybody on the staff of the country's largest circulation newspaper know that the deaths from cancer are yet to come—and are *inevitable* for some of the people radiated by the accident?

Paul Milvy, assistant professor of community medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, expressed it clearly and dramatically in a New York *Times* article April 12 headed CANCER FROM THE RADIATION. "There is often a long, latent period—10 to 30 years—before cancers develop," he wrote. "There may be n *obviou* causal relationship (to radiation). The cancers will be randomly dispersed throughout the one million people who were exposed. *But cancers will develop from the accident—this is not in dispute* (emphasis mine).

"Thus, an additional 50 cancer deaths for the Pennsylvania population exposed to about 500 millirads can be expected.

"Had a 'mad' bomber killed these 50, we would be shocked. Twenty-five years from now, these deaths will go completely unnoticed. Still these are real men, women and children. And the deaths will be real."

Will be? It's happened already to the residents living downwind from the Rocky Flats nuclear bomb plant near Denver. A recently released scientific survey found a greater incidence of cancer in the area downwind from the plant, than in the rest of the surrounding area. Also, many workers at the plant already have been afflicted with radiation. Yet the plant continues its "merry" way, finishing-off 3 to 10 nuclear bombs a day—though the U.S. stockpile is more than sufficient to blow up the world many times.

The cancer which Pennsylvanians in the Harriburg vicinity will suffer is just one of the factors to "fuss about." Only meltdown of the reactor's core, which would have resulted in thousands of deaths. Two days after the original accident, a second one occurred while radioactive coolant was being transferred from one tank to another. There was a valve failure which released 1200 millirems of radioactivity. Next, an unforeseen "bubble" formed in the core and for several days it appeared uncertain whether an explosion would result or not. Pregnant women and children were evacuated and plans were made to evacuate others. A tape recording of a secret meeting of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Harrisburg revealed that there was an 80% chance of a meltdown. Roger Mattson, director of the commission's division of system dafety asserted: "Let me say, as frankly as I know how, bringing down this plant is risky. There's not a negligible risk in bringing this plant down. No plant has ever been in this condition, no plant has ever been tested in this condition, no plant has ever been analyzed in this condition in the history of this program." In other words, they were *gambling* on the lives of *thousands* of people. They happened to win, but they could have lost. And what were the stakes? The profits the utilities derive from nuclear power. From solar energy, wind energy or other alternative forms of power, there are no profits, so the utilities are not interested.

Federal officials ultimately admitted that the accident was caused by the failure of *several* safety systems combined. But from the very start of the crisis, the authorities pursued a policy of cover-up. The early news broadcasts said that escaped radiation was limited to the control room. Then, in each subsequent broadcast, it stretched a little further until final admission that the radiation stretched to 15 miles from the plant.

And in case some think that Three Mile Island was a first, I cite an AP dispatch April 15 which said: "For 1978, the files (of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission) contained 2835 of what the Commission calls 'reportable occurrences.' Such incidents which violate the Commission rules or threaten public safety, took place at dozens of the nation's reactors, many of them near population centers." Following an accident outside of Detroit on October 5, 1966, in which the core melted, the Federal government drew up secret plans to evacuate 100,000 people. The radiation was so intense, it took a team of scientists a year to open the reactor.

But even if there could be developed a plan for complete safety, there is no solution to the problem of disposal of nuclear waste—and the by-product, plutonium, the most dangerous of all, which is used in the manufacture of bombs. Two government reports have stated that there is no safe way of disposing of nuclear waste.

At the start of this article, I seem to put the entire blame for the cover-up on a *Daily News* editorial. No. I simply singled it out as a ludicrous example. The cover-up policy was pursued by all the authorities—right up to the governor of the state and the President of the United States, who belatedly paid a visit to the plant. Everything is under control, there's no danger at all, was the

(Continued on page 6)

Photo by Karl Bissinger

On April 21, in a downpour of rain, 1000 demonstrators turned out to demand a shutdown of Consolidated Edison's Indian Point nuclear reactor, located only 25 miles from New York, a city of 8 million people.

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official line.

Nevertheless, Harrisburg, the reality and the film, 'The China Syndrome," which foresaw such a reality, have snowballed American opposition to nuclear energy. According to a recent New York *Times*/CBS poll, only 46% of Americans now favor further development of nuclear power, as against 69% in July 1977. A protest march in New York March 30 drew-in 1000 pedestrians as it moved up Broadway toward Times Square. And rarely do onlookers join demonstrations of this type.

But despite this change in public opinion, the Establishment—right up to the President—talks about continuing the nuclear energy buildup without interruption. The "liberals" like Senator Kennedy say that in the future there must be more safety and less speed in building the plants. But nobody in the Establishment says: shut them down, they're too dangerous.

So, obviously, they have learned nothing from Harrisburg. The anti-nuke "Alliance" groups, which have mushroomed all over the country, will have to continue and step-up their campaigns to bring awareness of the peril of nuclear energy. And WRL will have to pursue its campaign—not only against nuclear energy, but against nuclear bombs, which somehow have been forgotten in the course of the Harrisburg accident. Will it take a fatal explosion in which thousands are killed to bring the Establishment to its senses regarding nuclear energy?

Jim Peck is editor of WRL News.

The No Nukes Call is Two

by Van Zwisohn

When on Labor Day 1978 we of the WRL held up banners in Washington and Moscow and when in April of this year members of the Atlantic Life Community held up banners and a few weeks later spilled blood on the White House, the message was:

NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS!
NO NUCLEAR POWER!

After 3 Mile Island, massively, the call has gone out: No Nuclear Power. There's no argument—nuclear power is dangerous, expensive, and socially counter-productive. But a demand for a moratorium only goes halfway to the core (excuse the expression) of the problem—without a simultaneous call for an end to the nuclear arms race, our struggle to end nuclear power can do little to prevent the most catastrophic of nuclear dangers, that of atomic war.

There could be virtually no nuclear arms without nuclear power. Power plants provide the fuel for atomic weapons in a constant stream. With only 10 pounds of plutonium needed for an atomic warhead, one operating power plant produces enough reclaimable nuclear fuel for 90 warheads every year. We build three weapons every day.

Our stockpile is enormous, 30,000 bombs, enough to destroy life on earth. Russia can do almost as well; France, Britain, China, Israel, India and South Africa are also in the deadly club, and the latter three nations built their bombs with fuel processed from atomic power plants which our government provided.

Had there been a complete core meltdown at 3 Mile Island, it would have been a terrifying disaster. The people of Harrisburg, Hershey and surrounding communities in all likelihood would have died. All of them. People and animals hundreds of miles away would have been irradiated—cancer would have been the plague of our time. The toll would reach the hundreds of thousands or perhaps more than a million lives in a severely struck locale. The rest of the world would go on with its business, shocked, but essentially unaffected.

The mushroom cloud from a single 20 megaton atom bomb would soar 25 miles high. It would spread 70-80 miles across. Could there be but one? In an atomic war, 160 million would be dead in the U.S. alone, and the world made uninhabitable for human, animal, and much plant life.

Nuclear power was an afterthought of the atomic bomb. Power generation, often described as a "controlled nuclear reaction," was largely undertaken to lull the world's fears of what its "objective" scientists had wrought in war. Power has been linked to weapons from the outset. The same government agencies responsible for both, the same cloak of self-serving secrecy, the same lies, even some of the same bank rolls. Oil companies own most of our uranium reserves, uranium fuels the power plants, the plants fuel the bombs, and the bombs fuel destruction.

It's hard not to be puzzled over the insistance on more nuclear power. It's deadly, expensive, and leaves a legacy of poison for generations of generations. Where's reason, concern for life, for the future? The fanatical commitment of our government and corporations to nuclear power hinges on their fanatical commitment to nuclear war, the danger of which grows more imminent every day.

There is no need to worry about the 250 million year half life of nuclear wastes—it will need no guards after humanity's final war. No Nuclear Power, of course. But NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS, loud and clear.

Van Zwisohn in a member of the WRL Executive Committee and Director of the A.J. Muste Memorial Institute.

KNOW YOUR NUKES LITERATURE

After Three Mile Island, thousands of Americans are ripe for enlistment in the campaign to shut them down. But to enlist these people, you must know the facts.

Nuclear America Map—shows the locations of all nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons facilities in the U.S. ..... 75¢
Nuclear Madness by Helen Caldicott—a compelling case against nukes by one of the world's foremost anti-nuke speakers; 120 pp $3.95
WIN's No Nukes Packet $4
Button—"We All Live In Harrisburg," with profile of cooling tower in background ..... 25¢
Bumpersticker—"We Can Stop Nuclear Madness" ..... 75¢
T-Shirt—"Shut Down the Nukes" (large, medium, small) $4
No Nukes Issue of WRL News—a copy of this issue ..... free

☐ Enclosed is $_____ for the above (circle) literature.
Name_____

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Mail to WRL, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012.

A Statement of Affirmation and Draft Resistance

We affirm that in the nuclear age there is no effective military defense for our nation and we therefore commit ourselves to exploring nonviolent means to resolve conflict, to resist oppression, and to create a society of justice with freedom. We draw strength from examples such as Martin Luther King, Jr.

We affirm that no State has the right to coerce citizens through military conscription or other forms of universal and compulsory service.

We who join in signing this statement, circulated by War Resisters League, come from many different groups and backgrounds. Some of us are students and youth, and some of us are parents and teachers. We are women and men, from a range of racial, economic and religious backgrounds. We are united in our determination to resist efforts to register or draft the youth of this country. We reject the concept of military defense, whether through an army conscripted by the harsh reality of mass unemployment—which makes military service the only job open to many in the black and latino communities—or through an army directly conscripted through a draft.

We believe in exemption from military service for all who, from political or religious conviction, oppose such service. However we are committed to far more than the exemption of a relative handful of youth whose social background has led them to such acts of conscience. We are absolutely opposed to a situation where the wealthy and powerful draft the poor and politically weak.

We shall, depending on our personal situation, take one or more of the following actions. Not all of us can take all of the actions listed, but all of us will take at least one of the actions listed. And all of us support every signer of this petition in their nonviolent affirmation of conscience and their determination to resist.

1. Those of us who are now or will soon be of draft age will refuse any cooperation with either the registration or conscription process.
2. Those of us who, because of age, are exempt from registration and conscription, give notice we will actively counsel, aid, abet and support all youth who are determined to resist the draft, that we shall take such actions as may encourage them to resist.
3. We will consider nonviolent civil disobedience to disrupt the process of registration and render any draft or registration process null and void.

We hope that our actions will set an example to the youth in every nation in the world, as part of an international effort to end conscription and militarism in every nation. When governments will not disarm, the people must disarm the government.

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Additional copies can be obtained from the War Resisters League. But do not delay. Electrostencil or xerox extra copies immediately for use in your area. Circulate as widely as possible in your college, high school, church, trade union, etc. Post in coffee shops, union bulletin boards, community offices. Several thousand signatures *now* will be crucial in stopping the draft. Return petitions as soon as possible to the War Resisters League, which will arrange for their presentation to key members of Congress.

War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012, 212-228-0450

CPS REUNION

The reunion of Civilian Public Service assignees that has been held annually at Quaker Lake Conference Center since 1961 is scheduled for Sunday, July 29, 1979, beginning with a picnic lunch at the shelter by the lake at 1:00 P.M. Quaker Lake is located about 12 miles southeast of Greensboro, N.C., and is on N.C. Highway 62 about one mile east of the Climax post office.

Participants have been mostly men who were assigned to Units 19, 37, 41, 108, and 114, but several others have also attended. These and any others and their families who would care to join in the gathering are cordially invited.

Most of those attending in the past have been from within 100 miles of Quaker Lake; however, about every year one or more have come from other regions of the country. Last year, for example, marked the first visit for A.K. Taylor (Baltimore), Dan Frysinger (Glen Mills, Pa.), and Larry Gorham (Winchester, Indiana).

It is hoped that those coming from a distance could spend several days visiting friends and points of interest in the Greensboro area. Motels and camping facilities are readily available.

For further information and to inquire about possible hospitality, get in touch with William F. Van Hoy, Jr., 1007 Mackie Avenue, Asheboro, N.C. 27203, or telephone 919-629-4793.

"Marion: A Prison Inside a Prison"

This 23 minutes, 8mm sound film recreates the four-year long struggle to close the Marion long-term solitary confinement unit. The film moves from demonstrations at the prison to a sit-in at the St. Louis Bureau of Prison's office to interview with Marion Brother Khalid Muhammad and Marion Committee co-director, Scott Myers.

Rental is $25 plus mailing and insurance costs. Write to National Committee to Support the Marion Brothers, 4556 A Oakland, St. Louis, MO 63110.

WRI Triennial

The War Resisters' International Triennial will be held in Sonderborg, Denmark, on August 12-18 at the Folkhigh School. The first three days of the meeting are open to all peace activists interested in nonviolent solutions to areas of conflict and crisis in disarmament, civilian defense, and the reconversion of the armament industry into constructive usage. The conference theme "Towards Liberation" focuses on three major areas:

1) *Strategy for change:* to include developments in East Europe, Asia, Latin America, Africa, an assessment should be made of the forms of nonviolent resistance and passive resistance in places of crisis and oppression.

2) *Liberation from militarism & the arms race:* to include research into and discussion on reconversion, civilian defense, and unilateral disarmament.

3) *Workshops:* the anti-nuclear movements, women and militarism, conscription and conscientious objection, areas of special crisis (social, economic, and military) and the part to by played by radical nonviolent resistance.

The latter 2½ days of the conference will be a closed business meeting for the WRI Council and Section Representatives. Full board and conference facilities is about $25 a day. Camping on site is allowed provided campers eat at the school. For more information and reservations, write the WRI, 35 rue van Elewyck, 1050 Brussels, Belgium.

Photo by Karl Bissinger

Some 300 American women and men demonstrated at the Iranian Consulate in New York March 16 supporting the massive women's demonstrations in Iran protesting Khomeini's edict that they retrogress to wearing veils.

McCrackin Versus Ohio

by Larry Gara

During most of his 73 years, as an objector in World War II, a war tax refuser, a civil rights activist and a strong supporter of prisoner rights, the Reverend Maurice McCrackin has opposed war and injustice. Since January 1979 he has been in custody either in Cincinnati's Hamilton County Jail or the General Hospital. His arrest grew out of an incident last November when three prisoners, escaping from the state prison at Lucasville, held him hostage for several hours. Shortly afterwards one of the prisoners was killed by another hostage and eventually the other two were arrested.

When Prosecutor Simon Leis subpoenaed McCrackin to appear before the grand jury investigating the escape, Mac made it clear that he would not appear. On January 19, deputies came to arrest him. from the beginning Mac has refused to cooperate with his "kidnapping," as he terms it, and the Cincinnati *Post* published a picture of the elderly nonviolent activist being carried out by two burly deputies and a police officer. For three weeks Mac refused to take anything but water. He was moved to the hospital when his vital signs showed that he was slowing down. He then broke the fast because he felt the issue behind his jailing—prison conditions—was being lost in concern over his health. Shortly thereafter he was returned to the county jail where he has remained, except for a few days back in the hospital for observation when he suffered a series of dizzy spells.

When he was wheeled before the grand jury Mac refused all questions, simply reading a statement explaining that he could not help send anyone back to Lucasville. "How can I go and testify against a prisoner on behalf of the state," he asked, "or even seem to be doing so by going before a grand jury, when it is the state of Ohio that is responsible for the vast injustice, degradation and horror that is Lucasville?"

Such a position is typical of this courageous, nonviolent activist. when he decided that paying any income tax for a war-oriented state was wrong, he refused even to file a return. In 1958, when he refused to answer an IRS summons about his tax, he got six months in prison. He was one of a small number actually prosecuted for war tax refusal. His civil rights activities resulted in 41 days in a Tennessee jail on a trumped-up charge of loitering. In 1963 the Presbyterian Church defrocked him after a long church trial revolving around his civil disobedience. In recent years he has demonstrated on behalf of prisoner rights and has visited and corresponded with hundreds of Ohio prisoners. He was also part of a Cincinnati coalition which helped defeat a proposed bond issue to build a new county jail. In short, he is a sharp thorn in the side of the authorities.

Maurice McCrackin's current case has brought a lot of publicity to the grand jury issue as well as to the problem of jails and prisons. Daily demonstrations attracted newspeople and national publications have reported on the situation. *Time* characterized him as a "Prisoner of Conscience." Judge Rpert Doan and Assistant Prosecutor Arthur Ney threaten to keep Mac in jail for nine months, the longest time they can prolong the life of the grand jury.

NON-COOPERATION

Mac's position is that since the authorities put him in jail, they can release him. He has not cooperated with legal moves to release him, refusing to invoke ministerial privilege or the 5th Amendment. His clear and honest position is beyond the comprehension of law enforcement officials. It is his refusal to knuckle under to the court, along with his long and open record as a social activist which is at the root of his incarceration.

From his jail cell Maurice McCrackin is not only resisting an unjust grand jury procedure, but he is using every opportunity to inform the public about the prisons and jails. One widely publicized letter exposed the Hamilton County Jail which houses three men in cells with only two beds, an incredible noise level, defective plumbing, bugs in the toilets, no chairs and wholly inadequate lighting. County commissoners checking on Mac's statements have confirmed the facts.

On Easter Sunday Mac cut the ID band from his wrist, saying it was racist (it indicates a prisoner's race) and he would not be a number any longer. He also took off the second one they put on him. He was put in isolation.

Mac's concern for justice has made him a hero to many of his fellow prisoners. when one prisoner asked to have Mac perform his wedding in the jail, permission was denied, as was the request of the daughter of the slain Lucasville escapee that Mac preside at the funeral. Recently, Ohio's Director of Corrections has permanently barred Mac from visiting any of the state's prisons or corresponding with any prisoner. This is a typical response of prison officials to anyone concerned about the rights of the imprisoned. As syndicated columnist Garry Wills wrote of McCrackin: "He knows what we do not want to hear about. He not only knows what hells we have created, he has himself gone down into hell looking for his brothers."

Mac's continued jailing is a direct result of his long-standing record as a nonviolent activist. It is a threat to all of us and should be challenged. Letters of protest should go to Judge Rupert Doan, Prosecutor Simon Leis and Assistant Prosecutor Arthur Ney at the Hamilton County Court House, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Larry Gara is a member of the WRL National Committee and edits a prison column for WIN *Magazine.*

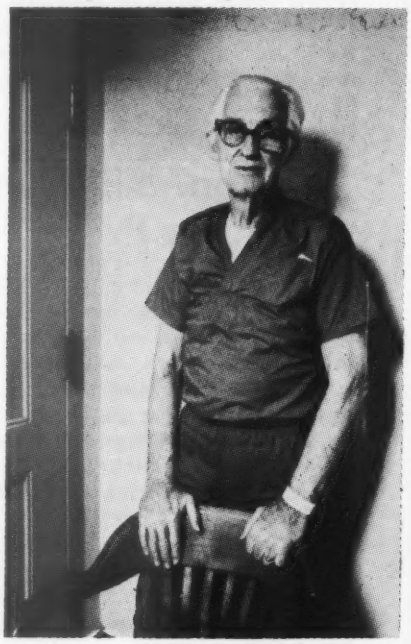

photo by Cincinnati Magazine

Maurice McCrackin in prison garb.